

WELLMAN CALLS COOK AN IMPOSTOR

Asserts That His Story Is Sus- picious Both in What It Tells And in What It Omits.

SLIMES PEARY WITH PRAISE.

Doctor's Story, He Says, to the
"Trained Ear and Eye," Is a
Counterfeit Presentation.

Washington, Nov. 28.—Walter Wellman, whose preparations for a conquest of the north pole in an airship were abandoned upon the announcement of the claims of Dr. Frederick A. Cook and Commander Robert E. Peary, tonight issued a long statement, in which he analyzes the narratives of the two explorers, declaring that of Peary "precise, workmanlike, consistent, credible in every particular," and denouncing that of Dr. Cook as a self-evident and even deliberate imposture.

"Cook's story is suspicious, both in what it does tell and what it does not tell," Mr. Wellman declares. He is generally vague and indefinite, but like most men of his class, altogether too precise at the wrong place. Nowhere does his story ring true. It is always an approximation of reality itself. This is true of his figures, his descriptions of everything.

"Those of us who have had a share of arctic life, and who have felt anxiety that no blot of fraud should stain the proud record of efforts and sacrifice, had a first hope that Dr. Cook would be able to demonstrate his good faith. This has dissolved in the analysis of his story. A second hope—that he was the victim of some hallucination or mental illness, and himself believed he had been to the pole, though of course, he has not—vanishes in the light of earlier and subsequent events. There remains, though one says it with keenest regret, only the wretched alternative that the journey which he did make and the report which he gave of it, were deliberately planned from the outset."

WELLMAN'S FINDINGS.

The gist of Mr. Wellman's findings is that, with his meager party and equipment, Dr. Cook could not possibly have accomplished the feat for which he claims credit, that his astronomical data are too minutely precise to have been made under the claimed conditions in the field, and that the "explorer's dash for the lecture platform and his acceptance of 'crowns of flowers placed upon his head by innocent women and children' as a substitute for his field records to scientific examination all conspire to his discredit."

Mr. Wellman first attacks Cook's story of his journey. He points out that arctic sledging is not a new venture nor an experiment, but has been reduced almost to a science. He proceeds to the proposition that the first thing to be done in advancing over the ice fields is the reduction to the minimum of food and fuel, and, secondly, the organization of supporting parties that can be sent back from the dwindling main body until the few who are hardest enter on the final struggle to the goal.

"The longer the route, he sets forth, necessarily the more the weight of food and fuel, and, in consequence, a much slower pace."

Basing his argument mainly on these



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Headache and relieve all the troubles incident to a bilious state of the system, such as indigestion, nausea, dizziness, constipation, etc. While their most remarkable success has been shown in curing

Headache, yet Carter's Little Liver Pills are equally valuable in Constipation, curing and preventing this annoying complaint, and thus restoring all disorders of the stomach, stimulating the liver and regulating the bowels. Even if they only cure

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principles, Mr. Wellman takes up a comparison of the supposed achievements of Peary and Cook. He quotes from records to show that the former took his ship to within 400 miles of the pole, advancing supplies and his party 47 miles closer in the autumn and spring. Cook, he points out, started from Annetok, 700 geographical miles from the pole, and went 170 geographical miles westward before turning northward according to his own story.

Peary, Wellman continues, mapped out his plans carefully for the advance and started with 50 or 60 men, 140 dogs and 21 sledges. He divided his party so he had four supporting parties who kept open the back trail and, in leaving the main body, lightened loads which men and dogs were compelled to draw.

Dr. Cook had no supporting party, says Wellman, except for the first three days. His party consisted of three men, 25 dogs and two sledges in the long dash he made.

"PHYSICALLY IMPOSSIBLE."

"That which he claims to have done," declares Mr. Wellman, referring to Cook, "with his equipment and organization, was physically impossible. It is beyond human power." Later in his statement he adds:

"The laws of physics and of mechanical forces can no more be defied and ignored in the arctic regions than elsewhere, save in the imagination." Taking up in order Dr. Cook's record of his trip northward, Mr. Wellman points to the statement that the Cook party made 68 miles in three days, despite bad weather, rough ice and the necessity of going twice over a big lead two miles wide, and this, he adds, at a time when the sledge loads were heaviest. Cook, he says, then traveled a distance of 27 per cent greater, at a speed 40 per cent faster, than Peary with his years of experience and his superior organization.

Mr. Wellman is especially caustic in his criticism of Dr. Cook for not turning over records of his trip immediately to some scientific body, especially when his story was questioned by critics. "He declares to be indisposed," he says, "to any arctic traveler need no revision, for, if they are honestly inscribed, they cannot be subject to revision. Such records, he points out, are kept in 'dirty, greasy, grubby note books,' the inscriptions in which have been 'penned with frost-bitten fingers by a weary man, lying in the hazy glow of a reindeer-skin bag, within a snow hut or tent."

"Let it be understood," says Mr. Wellman, "that such records are always complete and accurate and perfect at the moment they are written. They can be turned over to a scientific committee in two minutes as well as in two months—and much better. 'The man who has done an honest piece of work and recorded it faithfully hour by hour needs not to reconstruct that record. The bank cashier who took his daily ledgers covering a number of years home with him, upon the pretext that they needed revision and preparation before being submitted, and insisted on retaining them for some months with no other eye than his to see that they would probably find himself in trouble with his directors and officers of the law.'"

SCOFFS AT COOK
Mr. Wellman scoffs at Cook's astronomical data, especially the observation which he claims to have taken within 1,418 feet of the pole.

"It is indeed a marvelous traveler," declares Wellman, "who can average 15.5 miles per day for more than a month over sea ice with heavy sledges, and a marvelous astronomical observer who can locate his position with a minute's accuracy, walk and then 'advance' for the purpose of locating it more closely still, like the story of the amateur mountain climber who ascended a peak and returned with a report that he measured its altitude by barometer and found it to be eight miles, 25 rods, 7 feet and 3 1/2 inches."

Wellman flatly declares that such observations could be manufactured anywhere, by anybody, and, to support this assertion, he includes an "observation" such as might have been made at the north pole on April 21, 1908, "which I made today in Washington with a pencil and a nautical almanac."

"Anyone who knows nautical astronomy," he adds, "can sit down in Annetok, or Brooklyn, or anywhere, with a nautical almanac by his side and construct latitude observations at will."

"Cook's is to the trained ear and eye a story of a counterfeit presentation, precisely such a story as one might pen during a leisurely journey along the coasts of the game lands, using the incidents thereof to add the imagination in a deliberate transfer of the scene of action some hundreds of miles further north."

TWENTY JAPANESE KILLED IN WRECK

Vancouver B. C., Nov. 28.—Twenty Japanese were killed and 15 injured, several of them fatally, in a wreck of a work train on the Great Northern railway, between Vancouver and New Westminster, today.

One white man, George W. Kemp, a commercial traveler of Vancouver, was injured. He was riding on the work train. His feet were crushed and he was internally injured. His condition is serious.

The train left Vancouver at 6 o'clock this morning on the way to Sumas. When within a mile of the city limits of New Westminster the train ran into a washed out culvert. The engine passed nearly over and then fell.

Fireman Kent and Engineer Beatrice jumped, escaping injury. Immediately behind the tender was the bunk car in which 15 Japanese were sleeping. The engine settled back until it stood almost on end.

The Japanese's car was caught and smashed between the engine and the tender. Half the car was crushed to kindling wood and the remainder, smashed on the sides, slid further into the gully.

Three flat cars were piled on top of one another, while the caboose at the rear remained on the tracks. It was Conductor Ellis, who escaped injury.

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CUBA THREATENED WITH UPHEAVAL

Political Atmosphere Dark and
Murky and Filled With Sug-
gestions of Trouble.

OBJECTION IS TO GOMEZ

His Retirement, Either Voluntary or
Involuntary, Sought by Partis-
ans of Zayas.

Havana, Nov. 28.—Not since the downfall of the administration of President Palma has the political atmosphere of Cuba been more obscured and more laden with suggestions of trouble than now. The re-established republic is scarcely nine months old, and already rumors are persistent that some way is being sought to secure the retirement of President Gomez, either by persuasion or compulsion, and to place Vice President Zayas at the head of the nation.

When Gen. Gomez became chief magistrate, followers of Vice President Zayas stood shoulder to shoulder with those of the president, and even the conservative opposition, which had sustained the banner of Gen. Menocal in

the campaign of the previous summer, lent him their loyal support in the determination to give the new administration a trial. That they regard the trial a failure is evidenced by their manifesto issued shortly before the re-convening of Congress, in which they declared their intention of beginning an active campaign against the administration.

Probably the most serious condition that the president faces is that resulting from the continued failure of efforts to effect a complete fusion between his partisans and those of Vice President Zayas. For three years negotiations to this end have been in progress and at least half a dozen times announcement has been made of their success. In the presidential campaign there was a truce, but, with the beginning of this distribution of offices under the new administration, mutual distrust was re-established.

A few days ago Gen. Gomez started Liberal leaders in a letter in which he stated that, so far as he was officially concerned, he had decided to consider the fusion as an accomplished fact and, in view of this, he would make appointments to his cabinet without reference to the particular faction of the Liberal party to which the appointee might have belonged.

The attitude of the president was particularly objectionable to the Zayasists because the important post of secretary of state recently was made vacant by the resignation of Justo Garcia Veloz, a prominent member of the faction, and it was feared that the president would fill it with one of his own supporters. The incident has served to defer the accomplishment of actual fusion, and, should it result in breaking off existing negotiations, it is not improbable that the administration will have to oppose parties to deal with.

Another disquieting feature of the situation is the renewal of the agitation for the formation of a negro party. Steps preliminary to organization were taken at a meeting of negroes in the province of Oriente. For some weeks Havana has been the mecca for negro

leaders from all sections of the island, who have come to confer with Senator Morua del Gado, president of the senate and acknowledged leader of his race.

The grievance of the negroes is that they have not been accorded their share of offices. Morua has presidential aspirations, and, as his term in the senate will soon expire, it is likely that he will demand a cabinet position, either that of secretary of state or secretary of public works.

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SHOT WIFE AND SELF.
Beatrice, N. B., Nov. 28.—Fred T. Robinson came tonight from Lincoln, Neb., and, going to the home of his father-in-law, shot his wife, who was visiting there, and then shot himself.

The woman can probably live only a few hours, and there is little hope that the husband will long survive. So far as known, there has been no murder. Friends of Robinson say that he has shown signs of being mentally unbalanced.



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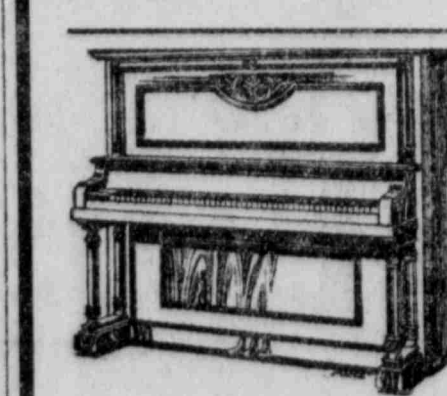
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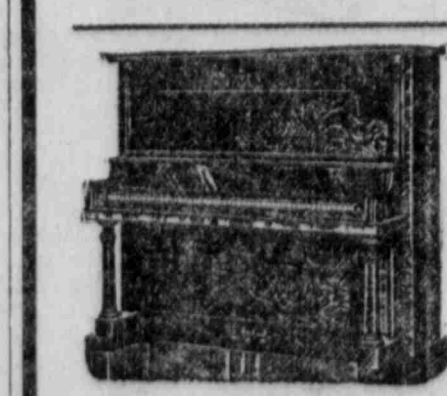
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This great club sale has been the means of placing 75 pianos in "pianoless" homes during the past week, and the saving of thousands of dollars to purchasers. A visit to the sale, an inspection of the instruments in connection with the prices and terms will demonstrate the reason so many fine instruments were sold in just 5 days' time. **YOU OWE IT TO YOURSELF AND FAMILY TO INVESTIGATE THIS SALE.** You will find everything as represented, even better, as mere words fail to properly express the wonderful advantage this sale affords those needing instruments. You must come and see for yourself, see these fine pianos, see the sale prices, learn the easy terms.

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We have just 53 uprights, grands and player pianos that we want to, must and will close out by next Saturday night. The low prices and easy terms on these fine makes to do the work. Just 53 left, comprising the best makes and twenty-five styles from which to choose, that will go to 53 lucky people at the most astonishing discounts and liberal terms ever offered.

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